

### Collaborative Justice Update

## Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence Court

BLAINE CORREN

Judges, attorneys, and other justice system professionals came together in September to discuss the possibility of creating a coordinated response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and substance abuse by using a problem-solving court model.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) presented a workshop on the problem-solving court model at the ninth International Conference on Family Violence, which was sponsored by the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute and took place September 19–22 in San Diego. The workshop was based on a roundtable discussion the AOC had conducted in the spring with national experts in the fields of domestic violence, substance abuse, and collaborative justice courts.

The AOC Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) presented a similar workshop at its Family Violence and the Courts conference on September 9–10 in San Francisco. At

the San Francisco event, Judges Stephen V. Manley and Sharon A. Chatman provided information on the Superior Court of Santa Clara County's domestic violence/substance abuse model.

Both of the presentations explored the priorities, philosophies, and structures of drug and domestic violence courts and the feasibility of coordinating the two programs. Presenters suggested that to coordinate the programs, courts would need to establish communication protocols, assess defendants for co-occurring issues, cross-train teams on substance abuse and domestic violence, and allow for a blended set of services addressing both issues.

The material summarized in the presentations will be explored more thoroughly in an upcoming edition of the *Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts*, due out in September 2005.

• For more information, contact Francine Byrne, CFCC, 415-865-8069; e-mail: francine.byrne@jud.ca.gov ■

## Judges Reach Out at Town Hall Meeting



The Superior Court of Santa Clara County held its inaugural judicial town hall meeting on October 6 at City Hall in Los Altos. As part of the court's efforts to reach out to the community, the town hall meetings are intended to demystify the judicial system as well as provide a forum for an exchange of information between judges and community residents.

For the October 6 meeting, a panel of seven judicial officers gave short presentations on areas of court operations and then fielded questions from the audience. The court's next town hall meeting is scheduled for February in Sunnyvale.

Pictured are (from left) Judges Socrates Peter Manoukian, Jamie A. Jacobs-May, Jack Komar, Sharon A. Chatman, Leonard P. Edwards, and Dolores A. Carr and Commissioner Deborah A. Ryan. Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County

## Nominations Open For National Award

Nominations are open for the second annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. The Opperman Award, named for the former chair and chief executive officer of West Publishing Company, is presented annually to an acting state judge or justice of a trial or appellate court who has had a distinguished career of judicial service. On September 29 the first Opperman Award was given to Shirley S. Abrahamson, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

To qualify for the award, nominees must have completed

at least 10 years of judicial service at a court of general civil and/or criminal jurisdiction in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. The award is given to a qualified judge whose career is characterized by:

- Decisions that, through their wisdom, humanity, and commitment to the rule of law, make clear that bench, bar, and community alike would willingly entrust that judge with the most complex cases of the farthest-reaching import; and

- Writings, including opinions, lectures, or other publications, that reveal scholarship

and dedication to the improvement of the judicial process; and/or

- Activities that help improve the administration of justice, advance the rule of law, reinforce collegial ties within the judicial branch, or strengthen civic ties within local, national, or international communities.

Nominations for the second Opperman Award should be postmarked by February 28,

2005, and addressed to the American Judicature Society, Attention Opperman Award Selection Panel, 2700 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

• For more information on the American Judicature Society and the Opperman Award, visit [www.ajs.org/](http://www.ajs.org/) or contact Beth Tigges, 515-271-2283; e-mail: [btigges@ajs.org](mailto:btigges@ajs.org). ■

## Judge Edwards Receives Rehnquist Award



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (right) presents the 2004 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence to Superior Court of Santa Clara County Judge Leonard P. Edwards at a November 18 ceremony at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. One of the most prestigious judicial honors in the country, the Rehnquist Award is given annually by the National Center for State Courts to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest levels of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Photo: Charles Pruitt/Bob Narod Photography

The screenshot shows the AJS website with a navigation menu on the left and a main content area titled "Nominations open for Second Annual Opperman Award". The text describes the award, its history, and the nomination process. It mentions that the award is presented annually to an acting state judge or justice of a trial or appellate court who has had a distinguished career of judicial service. The nomination deadline is February 28, 2005. The award is named after Dwight D. Opperman, former chair and chief executive officer of West Publishing Company.